

954.35718VX3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): A. PUGLIESE, III, et al

Serial No.: (not yet assigned)

Filed: April 9, 2001

For: ELECTRONIC TICKETING AND RESERVATION SYSTEM AND
METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 9, 2001

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, replace the paragraph beginning at line 4, with the following new paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/987,773, filed December 9, 1997, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 342,658, filed November 21, 1994, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 074,072, filed June 8, 1993, now abandoned.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-26 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please rewrite claim 27 in independent form as follows:

27. (amended) A method of validating a reservation for an airline flight, in order to eliminate the need for paper tickets, said method comprising the steps of:

making a reservation for a particular airline flight for a particular individual who has a reusable personal identification card having stored thereon identification information corresponding to the individual but no specific reservation or airline flight information;

storing reservation data, which identifies the individual and the particular airline flight for which the reservation has been made, in a reservation data storage area of a central data bank, including creating in the central data bank a passenger record for an individual who makes a reservation for an airline flight, said passenger record including reservation fields each relating to a respective flight for which said individual has made a flight reservation, each reservation field including information indicating a flight number, a flight departure date, a flight departure time, and a gate number for the flight;

reading the personal identification card of the individual at a selected location in an airline terminal to verify the reservation for the particular airline flight, by

accessing the reservation data in the passenger record of the individual stored in the central data bank, and effect automatic validation at the selected location to permit the individual to board the airline flight without requiring a paper ticket; and

issuing a boarding pass to the individual to allow the individual to board the airline flight without presenting an airline ticket after the personal identification card is read and the reservation has been verified;

wherein a passenger record in said central data bank also includes frequent flier information, for individuals who are a member of an airline frequent flier program, including a current record of frequent flier miles accumulated by the individual.

Please amend claim 56 as follows:

56. (amended) A method of validating a reservation as defined in claim 27, wherein said passenger record further includes message information representing a message to a passenger from a third party, and further including the step of communicating a message from a passenger record to a remote computer terminal at which the personal identification card has been read to access said passenger record.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please replace the original abstract with the following new abstract:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of and system for issuing an electronic authorization and validation for pre-scheduled activities, such as airline reservations, to eliminate paper tickets. The passenger makes the reservation and a reservation number is issued in the central computer of the airline reservation center. The passenger is then issued a plastic I.D. card that may be used to access the computer for validation purposes. An automatic teller machine, at the airport, allows the passenger to receive specific flight information, departure gate information, and a boarding pass, and to make reservations and access frequent flier information and messages, simply by the insertion of the I.D. card in a card reader at the ATM. A mobile airline communications system at the departure gate includes a magnetic card reader that provides validation of the reservation at the departure, which allows the passenger to board the aircraft.--


REMARKS

By the above amendment, the Cross-Reference to Related Applications has been amended, claims 1-26 have been canceled, with claim 27 has been written in independent form and claim 56 being amended to correct the dependency thereof. Also, the abstract of the disclosure has been replaced by a new abstract, thereby providing an abstract no longer than 150 words.

Examination of the application and favorable action thereof is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (954.35718VX3) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, replace the paragraph beginning at line 4, with the following new paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/987,773, filed December 9, 1997, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 342,658, filed November 21, 1994, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 074,072, filed June 8, 1993, now abandoned.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-26 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please rewrite claim 27 in independent form as follows:

27. A method of validating a reservation [as defined in claim 20,] for an airline flight, in order to eliminate the need for paper tickets, said method comprising the steps of:
making a reservation for a particular airline flight for a particular individual who has a reusable personal identification card having stored thereon identification information corresponding to the individual but no specific reservation or airline flight information;

storing reservation data, which identifies the individual and the particular airline flight for which the reservation has been made, in a reservation data storage area of a central data bank, including creating in the central data bank a passenger record for an individual who makes a reservation for an airline flight, said passenger record including reservation fields each relating to a respective flight for which said individual has made a flight reservation, each reservation field including information indicating a flight number, a flight departure date, a flight departure time, and a gate number for the flight;

reading the personal identification card of the individual at a selected location in an airline terminal to verify the reservation for the particular airline flight, by accessing the reservation data in the passenger record of the individual stored in the central data bank, and effect automatic validation at the selected location to permit the individual to board the airline flight without requiring a paper ticket; and

issuing a boarding pass to the individual to allow the individual to board the airline flight without presenting an airline ticket after the personal identification card is read and the reservation has been verified;

wherein a passenger record in said central data bank also includes frequent flier information, for individuals who are a

member of an airline frequent flier program, including a current record of frequent flier miles accumulated by the individual.

Please amend claim 56 as follows:

56. (amended) A method of validating a reservation as defined in claim [21] 27, wherein said passenger record further includes message information representing a message to a passenger from a third party, and further including the step of communicating a message from a passenger record to a remote computer terminal at which [a] the personal identification card has been read to access said passenger record.